

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
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AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 14828

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, UK, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: PALLEY ON MUZOREWA

SUMMARY: AHRN PALLEY SAYS MUZOREWA'S LOSS OF POLITICAL
SUPPORT IS ONLY MARGINAL NOW BUT IS LIKELY TO COLLAPSE
SUDDENLY IF THE INTERNAL AGREEMENT KEEPS TO ITS PRESENT
COURSE. MOST SHONA ARE UNITED IN THEIR FEAR OF NKOMO AND
NDEBELE DOMINATION. MUZOREWA AND HIS COLLEAGUES ARE
NEVERTHELESS POLITICALLY INEFFECTUAL BECAUSE THEY HAVE
BEEN SEDUCED BY THE BENEFITS OF OFFICE. PALLEY ESTIMATES
THE NUMBER OF POTENTIAL WHITE EMIGRANTS AT 40,000.
END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY OFFICER SAW MUZOREWA'S LEGAL ADVISER,
DR. AHRN PALLEY, ON SEPTEMBER 12. PALLEY WAS DISCOURAGED
NOT ONLY BY THE PRECARIOUS STATE OF THE INTERNAL AGREE-
MENT BUT ALSO BY MUZOREWA'S INEPTITUDE AND FRAGILE
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POLITICAL POSITION. AT THE SAME TIME, PALLEY CAUTIONED
THAT WE NOT BE MISLED BY RECENT DEFECTIONS FROM THE
UANC RANKS. THOSE WHO HAVE DESERTED THE BISHOP--
INTELLECTUALS, STUDENTS, MIDDLE LEVEL WORKERS--ARE ONLY
MARGINALLY IMPORTANT IN RHODESIAN POLITICS. MUZOREWA
STILL RETAINS BROAD SUPPORT AMONG THE MANYIKA, KORE-KORE,
AND ZEZERU. FOR THE MOMENT, THESE PEOPLE REMAIN LOYAL;

BUT WHEN THEY BOLT--PERHAPS AT THE END OF THE YEAR WHEN IT BECOMES CLEAR THAT THE WHOLE INTERNAL AGREEMENT IS A SHAM--IT WILL BE SUDDEN, MASSIVE, AND PROBABLY TO MUGABE. PALLEY SAID THAT IN RHODESIAN POLITICS, "THE BODY NEVER CHANGES; ONLY THE HEAD."

2. PALLEY ATTRIBUTED MUZOREWA'S PLIGHT TO TWO OVERWHELMING FACTORS. DESPITE THE CONFLICTS WITHIN THE COALITION OF THE UANC, ITS MEMBERS ARE UNITED IN THEIR HOSTILITY TOWARDS NKOMO AND THEIR FEAR OF NDEBELE DOMINATION. REGARDLESS OF THE SOURCE, EFFORTS TO INCLUDE NKOMO IN A SETTLEMENT ARE INTERPRETED AS A THREAT TO THE SHONA PEOPLE. MUZOREWA WILL, THEREFORE, REMAIN POLITICALLY SIGNIFICANT SO LONG AS HE IS SEEN AS DEFENDER OF THE SHONA. SECOND, MUZOREWA HIMSELF AND ESPECIALLY THE COTERIE AROUND HIM ARE ENCHANTED WITH THE HEADINESS OF OFFICE. SMITH WAS RIGHT TO THINK THAT THE UANC LEADERSHIP COULD BE BOUGHT OFF WITH THE TRAPPINGS OF POWER INSTEAD OF POWER ITSELF. ALMOST UNKNOWINGLY, MUZOREWA AND HIS COLLEAGUES NOW MOUTH THE SMITH LINE AND GO FROM DAY TO DAY ENJOYING THE BENEFITS OF OFFICE.

3. ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, PALLEY SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE "CLASSIFIED" NUMBER OF WHITE RHODESIANS WHO HAVE APPLIED TO THE CENTRAL BANK FOR THE MAXIMUM ALLOWANCE IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE REPRESENTS A POTENTIAL EMIGRATION FIGURE
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OF 40,000. NOT ALL THESE PEOPLE WILL LEAVE SOON, PALLEY COMMENTED, BUT THE NUMBER SHOWS THAT WHITES ARE HEDGING THEIR BETS.

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